

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1255

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

COMUS AZ

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L PONTA DELGADA 325

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: AZOREAN REACTION TO SHIFT IN GOVERNMENT

THERE HAS BEEN MINIMAL REACTION TO SHIFT OF VASCO GONCALVES FROM PRIME MINISTER TO MILITARY CHIEF OF STAFF.

PPD DEPUTY AMERICO VIVEROSE EXPLAINED THAT PEOPLE HERE ARE NOT CONCERNED WITH EVENTS ON CONTINENT, BUT ARE WAITING FOR INDEPENDENCE. HE CONFIRMED THAT GENERAL MAGHLAES HAD SENT MESSAGE PROTESTING NEW ARRANGEMENT AND OPINIONED MAGALHAES MIGHT BE THINKING OF LAUNCHING "FREE PORTUGAL" MOVEMENT FROM THE AZORES. VIVEROS THOUGHT SUCH A MOVE ON MAGALHAES PART WOULD NOT HAVE SUPPORT OF AZOREANS AND WOULD TRIGGER INDEPENDENCE MOVE.

2. VIVEROS SAID DISCORD AMONG FLA IN SAO MIGUEL WAS PRIMARY REASON FOR DELAY IN INDEPENDENCE; FLA IS UNITED IN OTHER ISLANDS. MANY WANT TO RID FLA OF RIGHTIST ELEMENTS HERE. THESE CONFLICTS CAUSED DISSOLUTION OF PROVISIONAL AZOREAN GOVERNMENT. VIVEROS THOUGHT AZORES WOULD BE INDEPENDENT BY NOVEMBER. HE CLAIMED FLA HAS SUPPORT OF SOME ARAB INTERESTS WHO WILL PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN EXCHANGE FOR MEAT AND MILK. PFEIFLE

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